

What is the Prescription Drug Monitoring Program (PDMP)?

The Nebraska PDMP is a statewide tool that collects dispensed prescription information. The PDMP is housed on the Health Information Exchange platform and managed in collaboration with the Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) as established in 2011 (Neb. Rev. Stat. §§ 71-2454, 71-2455, 71-2456). The primary purpose of the PDMP is to prevent the misuse of controlled substances that are prescribed, allow prescribers and dispensers to monitor the care and treatment of patients for whom such a prescription drug is prescribed, to ensure that such prescription drugs are used for medically appropriate purposes, and that the state of Nebraska remains on the cutting edge of medical information technology.

How does the PDMP work?

Beginning January 1, 2017, dispensers are required to collect and submit dispensed controlled substance prescriptions to the PDMP on a daily basis. The PDMP stores the information in a secure database and makes it available to dispensers and prescribers as authorized by law.

Do the PDMP state statutes have any influence on other pharmacy laws that are currently being followed?

PDMP statutes do not change provisions currently followed in your profession as a pharmacist.

Which dispensed drugs must be reported?

Beginning January 1, 2017, all dispensed controlled substances must be reported. [Neb. Rev. Stat. § 28-405](#) will provide a list of all controlled substances. Beginning January 1, 2018, ALL dispensed prescription drugs must be reported.

Is the PDMP fully operational?

As of January 1, 2017, the PDMP will be fully operational and will collect dispensed controlled substances. Beginning January 1, 2018, the PDMP will collect all dispensed prescription drugs. This means that dispensers are collecting and submitting data to the PDMP on a daily basis and health care professionals authorized by law may access the PDMP data. Authorized health care professionals are dispensers, prescribers and designees under the Uniform Credentialing Act.

Do dispensers and prescribers have to pay anything for the program?

The PDMP is available at no cost for all dispensers and prescribers as outlined in Neb. Rev. Stat. § 71-2454 (2)(c).

How is the PDMP being funded?

The Nebraska prescription drug overdose prevention efforts are supported by multiple funding sources including Bureau of Justice Assistance Grant, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) HITECH funding, designated State appropriation funds, and Nebraska Health Information Initiative (NeHII).

Who is required to collect and submit information to the PDMP?

Dispensers are required to submit information about each dispensed prescription drug, per Neb. Rev. Stat. § 71-2454 (2)(b). All prescriptions dispensed in the state or to an address in this state are to be entered into the system by the dispenser or his/her designee daily after such prescriptions are dispensed, including those for patients paying cash for such prescription drug or otherwise not relying on a third-party payer for payment for the prescription drug.

“Dispenser” means all of the following, Neb. Rev. Stat. § 71-2454 (5)(b): a person authorized in the jurisdiction in which he or she is practicing to deliver a prescription to the ultimate user by or pursuant to the lawful order of a prescriber but **does not** include:

- (i) the delivery of such prescription drug for immediate use for purposes of inpatient hospital care or emergency department care,
- (ii) the administration of a prescription drug by an authorized person upon the lawful order of a prescriber,
- (iii) a wholesale distributor of a prescription drug monitored by the prescription drug monitoring system, or
- (iv) through December 31, 2017, a veterinarian licensed under the Veterinary Medicine and Surgery Practice Act when dispensing prescriptions for animals in the usual course of providing professional services.

“Designee” means any licensed or registered health care professional designated by a dispenser to act as an agent of the dispenser for purposes of submitting or accessing data in the prescription drug monitoring system and who is directly supervised by such dispenser, Neb. Rev. Stat. § 71-2454 (5)(a).

How does a dispenser submit data to the PDMP?

Please consult the [Dispenser’s Implementation Guide](#) for an explanation of the data collection, submission requirements, and step-by-step guides for submitting data to the PDMP using the approved methods.

How often do dispensers need to submit data to the PDMP?

All dispensed prescriptions are to be entered into the PDMP system on a daily basis, as required by Neb. Rev. Stat. § 71-2454 (2)(b).

What data elements need to be reported to the PDMP?

A complete list of data elements that are required to be reported by dispensers can be found in the [Dispenser's Implementation Guide](#).

Can I share the PDMP data with a patient?

Currently Nebraska Rev. Stat. §71-2454 does not expressly authorize prescribers and dispensers to share PDMP data with a patient. Although access to the PDMP system itself is not authorized, it seems consistent with the purpose stated in the law for providers to utilize the PDMP as a tool to discuss the information with patients particularly if there are any areas in which the provider feels that a conversation is needed or patient safety may be an issue. Additionally, providers will still need to follow their regulations, HIPAA, and/or business policies when it comes to sharing patient data. If the prescriber does receive a request from a patient to view their PDMP data, they may be referred to contact Felicia Quintana-Zinn at Nebraska DHHS at Felicia.Quintana-Zinn@nebraska.gov or at 402.471.0379.

If asked, can I share PDMP data with physicians?

To access PDMP data, all prescribers and dispensers must be a registered PDMP user.

Who should I contact if I have technical questions about submitting data to the PDMP?

Please contact Nebraska Health Information Initiative (NeHII) at PDMP@nehii.org or call 1-866-978-1799.

Who should I contact if I have general questions about the PDMP?

Please contact Felicia Quintana-Zinn, Drug Overdose Prevention Epidemiologist, at 402-471-0379 or dhhs.pdmp@nebraska.gov.